

# The Buzz!

February Newsletter

## Important Dates



## Rossville ES



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Chad Dennison, Principal (Ext. 310)

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Tammy Hauser, Secretary (Ext. 311)

## February

- 3 5BB and Wrestling home
- 4 5BB home and Board mtg
- 5 Scheduled 2-hour delay
- 5 World Read Aloud Day
- 7 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Movie Night 6-8:15
- 10 5BB and Wrestling home
- 11 6:00 PAC virtual meeting
- 17 Wrestling home
- 19 Wrestling home
- 21 RES AG Day
- 24 Wrestling home



Notes from Mr. D....

It has been a wonderful start to the new semester! Staff and students are working hard to meet academic benchmarks all while navigating a few eLearning/Virtual Learning/Delay days. Thank you, parents, for your part. It takes all of us working as a team to make us the best we can be!

We are pleased to announce Kindergarten roundup! If you have a child turning 5 by August 1, 2025, he/she is eligible. We have two roundup dates scheduled on March 6 and March 20. Parents of eligible students should contact the elementary office to schedule your preferred day and time. Call us at 379-2119 ext. 310 or 311.

## Movie Nights for PAC

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will enjoy Holes on February 7<sup>th</sup>! Doors open at 6pm and pick up will be at 8:15pm.

Pk-2<sup>nd</sup> graders movie is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. The movie and pick up time is TBD.



## Grandparents' Open House

Open House????? That's right! PAC will be hosting Grandparents' Open House on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-3:00p.m. We are excited to change things up and start a new tradition! Open House will allow Grandparents and grandchildren to come and go as they can between 12-3:00. Many activities are in the works so be on the lookout for a "save the date" sheet and more information coming your way soon.

### Calling all artists

Hello, families! I am very excited to announce that our art classes have been creatively working away during the school year. I have decided to showcase the students' artwork through a program called Artsonia. Artsonia is a great resource for parents, students, and teachers. Below you will find some information about Artsonia and how it will benefit you. While I will still place their works of art in a show at the end of the year, this gives you an opportunity to share your child's art with others in a quicker, easier manner.

1. It allows you to **see your child's art before it comes home**. From the teacher perspective, many times we have to display work and show our students' accomplishments within the school with displays and shows, so it may take some time to send artwork home. With [Artsonia](#), the moment the teacher uploads the artwork, parents receive an email with a digital image of the art!
2. **Some projects get tossed over the years, but you keep a digital image for life**. As your child grows, the artwork you keep may fade or ruin over time. [Artsonia](#) keeps all the digital images archived for you, plus you can copy and save in your own documents. This way in case an artwork gets torn or tossed, you still have a digital copy for yourself saved! **EXTRA BONUS!** Did you know you can upload artwork into Artsonia from the parent's account? If your child makes art at home, snap a photo and upload it for family to see!
3. **You keep your account for-ev-er!** If your child starts with an account at an early age (ex. kindergarten), that account will last through high school and still be accessible for you even after. If you're in a district with K-12 with multiple schools, you can easily have all the elementary moved to intermediate, then to jr. high! This way, you don't need to restart a new account and lose all the archived images of your child's artwork.
4. **Your child's identity is protected**. In [Artsonia](#), no last names are ever used publicly, so your child's identity is always protected. You, as the parent, also have control over your child's account. The art teacher uploads the artwork, then you can share it with whoever you wish. Also, if anyone comments on your child's artwork, you approve the comments before they're shown publicly.
5. **You can share your child's work with family and friends**. As I mentioned above, you have control over your child's account, which means you can also share the artwork with family and friends! Every family member you add on is called a "fan club" member. When you add them to the account, they also receive an email with your child's art. If family lives out of state, this is a way to say, "Hey, look what my kid made!" and grandma, auntie, or cousins can share their pride as well.
6. **Your child's artwork receives comments!** As a teacher, I like to share comments and galleries with my students. They love to see not only their artwork posted, but the comments that family and friends make about their work. The smiles on students' faces are precious and gives them a boost of confidence in their artistic abilities! Kids love feedback from all ends!
7. **Instant holiday gifts!** You can do this any time of year (even during the summer), and artwork is always available for you to choose (remember, archived forever!). 20% of your money spent goes directly back to the school, which is always a bonus! I will use the funds generated from sales for materials in the classroom and

updating resources for the students, so your contributions always help! This is my way to replenish supplies for the kids throughout the year!

**10. You're supporting the art program at your child's school.** The arts are a valuable part of your child's development. Art helps bridge the gaps between all core subject matters, plus helps your child build imagination, craftsmanship, and creative thinking skills, which are all needed in your child's development!

Please use the QR code below to access the site to sign up. I am happy to provide a copy of paper if needed. I greatly appreciate your support for our art program!

Mrs. Schaefer



### **Attention to all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents**

Students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and any older students who have not successfully passed the IREAD-3 assessment will take the assessment during the spring testing window. Rossville Elementary will be testing students during the week of March 3-7. Teachers will be sharing specific testing dates and times with each parent.

### **Who will take the test?**

All 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, any 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who did not pass the test as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and any older student up to grade 7 who has not passed the test yet are required to take it.

### **What is the purpose of the test?**

IREAD-3 is a reading assessment that measures foundational reading skills through grade three, including students' ability to read and understand grade-level text. IREAD-3 was developed in accordance with the 2010 Indiana General Assembly passage of Public Law 109, which required the evaluation of reading skills for all third-grade students to ensure they can read at grade level prior to fourth grade.

### **Is the test timed?**

No, it's an untimed test. Students will be given the time they need to complete each test segment.

### **How is IREAD-3 Scored?**

IREAD consists of multiple-choice items only. The assessment vendor's scoring system scores all items, and there is no rescore process. Students must attain a scale score of 446 or higher in order to pass IREAD. Students' results will be provided to schools 24 hours after test completion.

### **What are the next steps if my child does not pass IREAD-3?**

Students will be provided with high leverage remediation in reading and retake the assessment during the summer school administration. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who do not pass during both sessions will continue to be provided with remediation as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who do not pass during each session must either be retained in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or receive a Good Cause exemption.

Please visit <https://www.in.gov/doe/students/assessment/iread-3/> for more details.

**If you have any questions, please contact either your child's teacher or Mr. Dennison.**

## Celebrate World Read-Aloud Day on February 5th: Why Reading to Your Child Every Day Matters

By Michele Houser, Literacy Coach

Reading aloud to your child every day is one of the most powerful ways to support their learning and development. It's more than just a bedtime ritual—it's a meaningful investment in their future. As we approach World Read-Aloud Day on February 5th, let's take a closer look at why this simple practice can make a lifelong impact.

### Closing the “Million-Word Gap”

Research highlights a surprising concept known as the “million-word gap.” By the time children start kindergarten, those who are read to regularly hear approximately 1.4 million more words than children who aren't. This exposure helps develop vocabulary, comprehension, and overall readiness for school. By reading aloud, you're introducing your child to a wide variety of words and ideas, setting them up for success before formal education begins.

### The Benefits Go Beyond Words

Reading aloud does more than just improve language skills. Here are some of the lasting benefits it brings:

- **Strengthens Your Bond:** Sharing a story fosters connection, security, and love between you and your child.
- **Improves Focus and Discipline:** Listening to a story helps your child practice patience and concentration—important skills for school and life.
- **Sparks Creativity and Imagination:** Books introduce new worlds and possibilities, encouraging your child to dream big and think creatively.
- **Builds Critical Thinking Skills:** Stories present characters, challenges, and resolutions, helping children learn problem-solving and empathy.

### Making Reading a Daily Habit

Incorporating reading into your routine doesn't have to be difficult. Here are some simple ways to make it enjoyable:

- **Let Them Choose:** Pick books your child loves—whether it's about animals, superheroes, or fairy tales.
- **Stick to a Schedule:** Set aside a consistent time, like before bed or after dinner, to make reading a habit.
- **Bring Stories to Life:** Use expressive voices and tones to make the characters and events engaging. (Even now, my adult children—ages 30, 26, and 21—love when I read “Skippy Jon Jones” because of the voices I use!)
- **Talk About the Story:** Ask questions and encourage predictions to build comprehension and make the experience interactive.
- **A Little Time, Big Rewards**  
It's never too late to start! Reading just 15 minutes a day can make a lasting difference in your child's life. These small, consistent moments create a strong foundation in language, foster a love for books, and develop critical thinking skills.

So, grab a book, find a cozy spot, and watch your child's imagination grow—one story at a time. The words you share today will leave an impact that lasts a lifetime.

**Celebrate World Read-Aloud Day by making reading aloud a part of your family's everyday joy!**

